8/15/88

Dear Harold-

Thank you so much for the copy of "Oswald In New Orleans". I'm enclosing a check which includes postage for $27.60. I really appreciate it as tracking down those folks would have been difficult (and these radio guys tend to move around pretty rapidly). I have access to a xerox machine at work and can xerox the book there if you'd like it back. Let me know. Since the book is out of print, your last few copies might be a precious commodity and as much as I'd like to have the copy, I can xerox it. Using the producer's machine to make the copies would be no probably and I'd feel like I'm getting something back for them keeping us out of work for 6 months. Anyway, let me know on this - for now I'm enclosing the check. I'm also sending you one of those JFK Assassination postcards for your file - hardly what I'd call a tasteful tribute. I don't know if they ever issued a postcard depicting Adlai Stevenson being spat upon by Dallas citizens, but it wouldn't surprise me. They could have an entire series of low moments in Dallas history.

On the Jack Anderson thing: I don't expect much. In the 70's Anderson was a proponent of the theory that JFK's assassination was Castro's response to the assassination attempts by the CIA on him. To me, it was always so transparent that the conspirators wanted our government to blame Cuba for JFK's murder. I always wondered if whoever was behind the killing was surprised when the police, FBI and Warren Commission pinned it on Oswald, but then never "retaliated" on Cuba. Although, they got Kennedy out, they never realized the part of the plot that would have gotten Castro out of power. They framed Oswald successfully, but the U.S. never took all the bait. Anyway, back to Anderson. I don't know any of the names (Whitten, Norden or Olson the researcher). Burt Lancaster's daughter may have an interest because of her father. I know he agreed to act in "Executive Action" for no pay,

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So did Robert Ryan for that matter. Also Will Geer. They did it because they believed there was a conspiracy to kill JFK. Unfortunately, they did it in a bad movie.., Badly written, directed and for the most part acted. The guy who played Jack Ruby was laughable. They didn't even try for accuracy as the conspirators (rich right wing oil men) watched the assassination on television. Hell, even Mark Lane should know the motorcade wasn't televised. As for using Penn Jones as a main source - I've never read any editions of "Forgive My Grief". I remember fliers being passed out at the NYU convention, but from what I could gather his stuff leaned towards the sensational.

Re: "LIBRA". I'm enclosing the review from Newsweek which was favorable. I'm somewhat surprised that The Post's review and Newsweek's had such a different tone, since they're owned by the same company.

As far as sending clippings go, I'm only too glad to help in any small way. Asking friends for a copy of the trades they would throw out anyway, is hardly a burden. It's no trouble, really. Although my schedule is getting hectic (our production schedule is nightmarish because we lost so much time during the strike), I get the trades at work and read all the local papers. So, when I come across something of interest, I'll send it along.

On VCR's. They've really dropped in price and I've seen them on sale for $199.00 or so. If you can find a brand like Goldstar, which is not one of the major brands, you can get a real bargain. I have a friend whose had a Goldstar and a Zenith (both relatively inexpensive for VCRs) and they've held up well for over two years. You'd probably want one with the least features - all you need is fast forward, rewind, play and record. All the rest is window dressing and not needed. You don't need slow motion unless you really want to scrutinize something. A salesman

should be cooperative if you tell him you want the bare essentials and something inexpensive. Only four companies make all the VCRs, so even the "off brands" are okay. You'd want what's called VHS because the Beta max machines made by Sony (they take smaller tapes than VHS) are becoming obsolete. Only Sony makes Betamax, so if you don't lock into Sony, this won't even be a factor. If you don't plan to use it much, then there's no point in getting one. I use it for work alot and to tape programs I can't see when I'm out. For that it's useful. Also, I'll rent movies from time to time. Any good video store will rent a tape for about 99¢ to $1.50 (sometimes a little more on weekends). This would be great if you haven't seen many movies in the past 10 years, as virtually everything is available. Also, a great deal of the classics are out on tape and more are released by the week. I love stuff from the 30's and 40's from Howard Hawks comedies to John Ford westerns and Hitchcock suspense. And like you say, if you're a sports fan you can tape games. The bottom line is will you use it. Once you get one and learn how to operate it, you'll be surprised how much you'll use it. Again, that's only if you want to rent movies. Just to tape an occasional ball game isn't really going to mean alot of use. It's harder to find documentaries on tapes. I searched a number of stores and tracked down The Plot to Kill the President, The Two Kennedys and The Second Gun (about the RFK killing, quite good and most persuasive). The JFK material is all found elsewhere and because of copyright problems there's very little good footage - no Zapruder film of course - not even Muchmore or N.x. Usually its news footage, but nothing that hasn't seen - nothing obscure or even anything from the Dallas Cinema Associates. I remember seeing a documentary as a kid called "Four Days in Dallas" (done by UPI), but that's not on tape nor is "Rush to Judgement" which I saw at NYU. CBS hasn't put out any of (over)

the specials they did in the 60's. So there's very little available in that area. But there are documentaries in other areas that Networks have done. The bottom line is if you're going to use it, it's worth the investment. I just like not being at the mercy of network TV (and my area has not been hooked up for cable yet).

On your comments about who may have been responsible for the assassination. I've always appreciated the fact that you never jumped to conclusions and dealt with documented proof. In the past few months, I've looked through your book again and also Sylvia Meagher's. What was amazing was that even as late as 1967, the trail had not grown completely cold. Despite the Warren Commissions botched up whitewash, there were leads. What is frustrating, is that something could have been done and wasn't. For the life of me, I'll never understand why the press was so supportive of the official lies. Even with the Garrison case which was a fiasco, there was much important testimony. But the press was so intent on getting Garrison that they ignored everything else. Maybe these were more naive times, but the press still is highly selective about reporting. They went ~~after~~ after Nixon, but they created the teflon that surrounds Reagan. I have friends who are reporters, one of them capaigned for RFK in 68 and even he is leary about a conspiracy. There's a tendancy to lump critics of the official story in with those who claim they were carried off by UFO's. They won't even consider the possibility of a conspiracy and the frightening implications. I was only 9 years old back then, but I don't see how any adult could believe anything the Dallas police said especially after Oswald was killed in their custody.

As for the Lovelady photo. If that is Lovelady in the plaid flannel shirt pictured in Groden's book, it is clearly someone else in the

Depository doorway. I was just saying that I can't tell from the photo that it is Oswald. The shirt Lovelady wears in the Groden book is different from the short sleeve ~~vertical~~ vertical one that the FBI took which appears in your Whitewash series. In Photographic Whitewash you mention that Richard Sprague saw some film footage of the grassy Knoll area that shows some interesting things including possible assassins. Whose films are these and have you ever seen them? I'm curious as to why this stuff never even came out through the [redacted] House Assassinations Committee.

By the way, I finally read Howard Roffman's book (got it at the Library). It was very good although nothing really new. I was interested in his description of film footage by someone named Gough and also David Weigman. Have you seen these? I can't understand why these things have never been seen by the public. Even today 25 years later many have never seen the Zapruder film. If everybody saw a copy of the Groden enhancement film, it would turn a lot of heads.

I'm enclosing one more article from Hollywood Reporter that talks about Geraldo Rivera's "Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald":

On to baseball: If Edward Bennett Williams was the O's problem, he is no longer. Not to make light of his death, but someone else will run the show now. Why anyone would want Larry King's opinion on anything is beyond me.* He is a first class jerk with an over inflated opinion of himself. He writes a column for USA Today on Mondays and it is a collection of random thoughts. Literally anything that comes to his mind. It couldn't take more than 10 minutes to write this piece of junk. One of his columns on the Democratic Convention dealt largely with how to crash private parties. Real investigative journalism. The O's really need to jump into the free agent market. They've let their pitching go to hell. At least they resigned Cal Ripken. Fred Lynn was a mistake because he is

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constantly nursing injuries. Eric Davis of the Reds is turning out to be the same. Pete Rose gives him special treatment and the other players resent it. Although the Reds have the makings of a good club, it seems Rose can't motivate the players or maybe he can't understand those that don't have his hard nosed attitude. Whatever the case, a management change couldn't hurt (it sure helped Boston). Worse yet, our owner Marge Schott is a joke. When asked who the main competition for the Reds in the NL west was, she replied, "Kansas City". She parades this big German Shepard around and basks in publicity. But she's cheap as Hell and unloads players just to rid the club of high salaries. She's fired minor league scouts right and left. She knows nothing about the game. I'm not a big Dodger fan, but they're looking good. It's safe to say the Orioles are eliminated this season. Hell, they're probably already eliminated from next season. I hope they come back. Those Baltimore - Reds World Series in the 70's were pretty good teams. And Cincinnati will always look like fools for taking Milt Pappas for Frank Robinson.

Well, that's all for now. Hope my VCR info helped. Any other questions on that, let me know.

Take care.

Best

Robert